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BioSecure, record data and learn about biosecurity in dairy herds



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BACKGROUND

In Europe there is an increasing demand for improved prevention of infectious diseases in cattle farms, and recently, livestock disease outbreaks and zoonotic infections have been identified as major threats to Danish society.

This requires research into the effect of different on-farm biosecurity measures, which again calls for a platform capable of collection appropriate information on farm-specific biosecurity measures as well as disseminate knowledge about biosecurity procedures available for the farmers.

OBJECTIVES

1. Which factors and practices are relevant to include in the evaluation of biosecurity in dairy herds?
2. Can accurate information about these factors and practices be collected through an online [recording platform](#)?
3. How are the collected data associated with on-farm health parameters?

An online platform is being developed by AgroTech, and in the beginning of 2016 real questionnaires will be incorporated




a) Login to the platform. This login will be the same login Danish farmers use to monitor their herd data, and it will be linked to data from the Danish Cattle Database.

b) Select a questionnaire, e.g. calving facilities, young stock, animal movements and milking procedures. The farmer will now be asked about various on-farm biosecurity practices. The questionnaire design includes:
Multiple choice ± pictures, dropdown menus, sliders ± pictures, checkboxes, conditional branching and comment fields


Are you testing colostrum quality?

- Yes, with Brix (refractometer) (conditional branching leading to question XX)
- Yes, with colostrometer (conditional branching leading to question YY)
- Yes, visually (conditional branching leading to question YY)
- No (conditional branching leading to question ZZ)

Which of these pictures mostly resembles your calving area when it is filled?

1  2  3 

How would you rate the hygiene of this calving area?



Unacceptable ————— Superb

DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

- The web page will contain information about biosecurity practices.
- The questionnaires will include info boxes concerning the various topics of the questions.
- When a questionnaire is filled out the farmer will get a response pointing out his areas of interest.

COLLECTION OF DATA

- Biosecurity will be divided into smaller topics – each covered by a questionnaire.
- We are working together with the industry and veterinarians in order to promote the platform.
- We can link the farmers' answers to health parameters collected through the Danish Cattle Database